Investigation and Evidence 3-1/4

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

18 FEB 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Attention: Mr. S. J. Papich

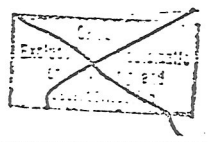
SUBJECT: Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

1. According to entries for late October 1959 in Lee Harvey OSWALD's "Historic Diary," he attempted suicide in Moscow on 21 October 1959 by cutting his left wrist. In an interview of Marina Oswald, conducted by your Special Agents Anatole A. Boguslav and Wallace R. Heitman on 2 December 1964 at Dallas, Texas, as shown by memorandum dated 3 December 1963 furnished to this Agency, she stated that she never knew OSWALD to speak of or attempt suicide, that she did not think that he was capable of suicide and she did not believe he had ever attempted suicide. She also stated that she recalled seeing a scar on the inner left wrist of OSWALD after they were married. This scar she said was completely healed and she asked him about this and he evaded answering her.

2. In connection with our efforts to assist the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy by providing information which might be helpful in interpreting available materials relating to OSWALD's activities abroad, we have considered the entry with regard to attempted suicide. We consider this entry as being of considerable importance and one which might be subject to verification.

3. The only information we have received which would appear to have a direct bearing on the accuracy of the diary entry is that contained in the above mentioned memorandum of interview dated 3 December 1964. The information contained therein was provided by his widow, a Soviet citizen. We feel that statements on the part of Marina OSWALD are not adequate and that independent corroborative evidence on this point should be obtained if it is possible to do so.

4. We would appreciate receiving any other information, such as statements of observations by police or others, including the undertakers, copies of any reports, such as autopsy or other, which may contain information pertinent to this point.



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5. The best evidence of a scar or scars on the left wrist would of course be direct examination by a competent authority and we recommend that this be done and that a photograph of the inner and outer surfaces of the left wrist be made if there has been no other evidence acceptable to the Commission that he did in fact attempt suicide by cutting his wrist.

(Signed) Richard Helms
Richard Helms
Deputy Director for Plans

cc: Mr. J. Lee Rankin, Esq.